

BOOK REVIEW

Traité de Zoologie, published under the direction of Pierre-P. Grassé, 1960, Vol. 5, fascicule 2, Embranchement des Mollusques, pp. 1625-2164, text figs. 1469-1830, and 2 colored plates. Masson et Cie Editeurs, Libraires de l'Académie de Médecine, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris, France.

The second half of Volume 5, fascicule 2 of the Traité is devoted to the phylum Mollusca and contains the sections on "Généralités sur les Mollusques" by A. Portmann (pp. 1625-1654); "Classe des Aplacophores" by E. Fischer-Piette and A. Franc (pp. 1655-1700); "Classe des Polyplacophores" by E. Fischer-Piette and A. Franc (pp. 1701-1785); "Classe des Monoplacophores" by H. Lemche and K. G. Wingstrand (pp. 1787-1821); "Coquille des Mollusques: Structure et Formation" by P. Manigault (pp. 1823-1844); "Classe des Bivalves" by A. Franc (pp. 1845-2133) and "Bivalves Fossiles" by Colette Dechaseaux (pp. 2134-2164).

There has long been a need for a general account of the biology of the mollusca which would bring together the information contained in the multitude of papers which has appeared since the time of Pelseneer's great work in 1906. The excellent series of reports contained in the volume certainly goes a long way toward filling this need and when Volume 5, fascicule 3, which will deal with the gastropods, cephalopods and the embryology of the mollusks has been published, we will have a most useful account of this phylum. The present volume deals largely with the morphology of the classes covered, usually with a discussion of the functioning of the systems or organs involved. The sections on ecology, geographic distribution and evolution, though generally brief, are well documented giving the greatest possible amount of information in a few pages. The systematic sections give short but precise definitions of the taxa down to families with a listing of the important genera and their geographic range. All the accounts are beautifully illustrated with detailed and clearly labeled line-cuts or half-tones. Extensive bibliographies allow the reader to go further into the subjects covered if desired.

—RUTH D. TURNER